Dear Jim, House assassins committee 6/23/77

While Lil is taking a dip in the water that is still too cool for my troubled legs a brief note on an unexpected call today from Donovan Gay, the assassins' research director.

He said it was social so I accept it as social but all that is social of which we talked is the pool and I told him any time.

In our talk about the committee, which is how he began - and of course as long as he gets his paycheck there this should be confidential - I began by saying I am sorry about the way it worked out, that I'd have been happier with other results.

He surprised me by telling me he was there when I laid it all out, that it had worked both ways as I'd told Sprague. True. He was there that morning. I t was not in my mind. In fact he was always with me that afternoon, too, only Akers being the other one who was.

He referred to the accuracy of these forecasts several times. He also expressed the hope they might reform. I told them if they did they'd never gain any credibility now.

His first question was of their new chief counsel. I said I did not know him but he has the same meaning the wrong background. I also said don't ask me questions unless you want direct answers. He said he did so I said he also had a conflict of interest in the King case. Blakey comes from the McClellan committee background. which means he has a conflict over the OPR whitewash called a Task Force Report and I told Donovan that although that document does not say there there is another McC committee involvement, one Jack Dross. (McClellan knows the right types. With apologies to Stephen Peacock.)

We went into the black members. He said it was depressing. I told him thi s was not my intention and that a real depression would come in time if he does not preserve his personal integrity, something other of my younger friends may recall is not a new idea with me or new advice to anyone. I told him their record will be something he will have to live with so he'd better not kid himself about it. I also said that as long as his personal record on the committee is one of which he need not be ashamed he will not later have cause to be depressed over this.

Now it happens that he called not long after I received a report that Lane is in LA again and lapping up the attention while he flaps off at the mouth. Latest flapping that he is Ray's co-counsel. I told Donovan how he could be helpful to the black members on this, only in part from what I was told today: that Freed was acting as his flack and was my source's source on Lane saying he is now Ray's counsel. There are tapes at Black News net; CBS LA or net, Bill Stout, who drove out th the airport and did a Minicam biti Bob Abernathy , whether or not NBC net NBC in LA on Channel 4 there. I then described Kershaw as a Nazi but as not meaning this literally; that he has an anti-black, a record of defending those violating law that give blacks rights, and I told him how he could obtain what is published. (You were never co-counsel with Stoner and what Lane can do to help Ray will remain a mystery. How this can help Lane is not mysterious.) But I think that on this your course is still silence.

If Donovan had anything in mind he did not communicate it makes no difference. However, I'll not be surprised if I have a visit.

Best,